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Tiruchirappalli, South Arcot, Kanyakumari and Tirunelveli districts. There has also been no increase in the several taluk headquarters except in Coimbatore and Ramanathapuram.

(2) The uniform rise is in the case of coffee, the main ingredients of which are coffee powder and milk. As regards the supply of coffee seeds the Chairman, India Coffee Board, has been asked to report whether anything can be done for the supply of coffee seeds to hotels. The Government of India have been addressed regarding the prospects of getting supply of milk powder for commercial purposes and to allot 10,000 tons per annum to this State. Steps have been taken to supply sugar to the hotels at the controlled price.

(3) The Collector of Madras has reported that some of the owners of the hotels have reduced the enhanced price of coffee from 18 nP. to 16 nP. per cup and that other hotel owners in North Madras who had a proposal to enhance the price of edibles and coffee have refrained from doing so.

(4) There is an increase of five naye Paise to thirteen naye Paise in regard to rates per meal but this increase would appear to be in tune with the general increase in the price levels.

* 1714 *Q.*—SRI A. A. RASHEED : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the price of the hotel meals and kerosene have increased since the first week of March 1961; and

(*b*) if so, the steps taken to reduce the prices?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) With reference to the steps taken to reduce the price of hotel meals the attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer furnished to Legislative Assembly question No. 1713 (starred) by him.

As regards kerosene, the increase in price was due to the levy of additional excise duty on superior kerosene. There has since been a slight downward trend in the price of kerosene in the Madras City consequent on the arrival of Russian kerosene.

* 1715 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Collector of Madras has submitted his report to Government regarding the increase in the prices of foodstuffs in hotels;

(*b*) whether the Government have examined the report and taken any decision thereon; and

(*c*) whether a copy of the report together with the decisions of the Government will be placed in the Library of the Legislature?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) (1) The uniform rise is in the case of coffee, the main ingredients of which are coffee powder and milk. As regards the supply of coffee seeds the Chairman, India Coffee Board, has been